

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 3528

NODIS

FOR EUR: WARREN ZIMMERMANN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), AU

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO VIENNA: KREISKY VIEWS ON
SUCCESSION PROBLEM IN YUGOSLAVIA

REF: STATE 98382

1. AUSTRIA'S PERSPECTIVE ON YUGOSLAVIA IS HEAVILY
COLORED BY VIENNA'S HISTORIAL EXPERIENCE OF BALKANS
AS AREA OF MAJOR POLITICAL INSTABILITY WITH MAJOR
IMPACT ON WORLD WAR I AND II DEVELOPMENTS. THERE IS
ADMIRATION FOR TITO'S STRONG LEADERSHIP IN HOLDING POST-
WORLD WAR II YUGOSLAVIA TOGETHER AND OPENING IT TO WEST,
BUT SOME SKEPTICISM CONCERNING ABILITY OF TITO'S
SUCCESSORS TO CONTAIN CENTRIFIGUAL FOCES, PARTICULARLY
NATIONALISM. THIS FACTOR, TOGETHER WITH WHAT CONSIDERED
TO BE MAJOR CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN PARTY AND MILITARY,
OFFERS SOVIETS IN AUSTRIAN VIEW OPPORTUNITY TO MORE
EFFECTIVELY INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENTS IN POST-
TITO YUGOSLAVIA.

2. FOREGOING REFLECTS GOA ANALYSIS THAT LONG-
STANDING AUSTRO-YUGOSLAV CONTROVERSY OVER SLOVENIAN
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MINORITY IS PARTLY FUNCTION OF INTERNAL YUGOSLAV
SITUATON, AND THAT YUGOSLAV ATTACKS ON AUSTRAIA'S
HANDLING OF SLOVENE MINORITY AREESIGNED TO PROMOTE
DOMESTIC UNITY. PREOCCUPATION WITH CONTROVERSY HAS
TENDEDD TO HEIGHTEN AUSTRIAN CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE
DEVELOPMENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA FROM VIEW POINT OF UASTRIAN
SECURITY. AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL QUARTERS IN THIS

CONNECTION HAVE QUERIED NATO SOURCES, PARTICULARLY, US,
ABOUT CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR POST-TITO YUGOSLAVIA.

3. KREISKY HIMSELF IS MORE SANGUINE ABOUT PROSPECTS
FOR YUGOSLAVIA COHESION FOLLOWING TITO'S
DEATH, BUT HE GENERALLY AVOIDS ADDRESSING THE ISSUE
PUBLICLY BECAUSE OF YUGOSLAV SENSITIVITIES. KREISKY
WOULD LIKE TO BE REASSURED THAT US CONSIDERS YUGOSLAVIA
IMPORTANT TO ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS AND IS PREPARED TO
HELP MAINTAIN YUGOSLAVIA'S INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY. IF OPPORTUNITY ARISES, POINT SHOULD BE MADE
TO KREISKY THAT USG HOPES FOR RESOLUTION OF SLOVENIAN
MINORITY CONTROVERSY AS STABILIZING FACTOR IN YUGOSLAV
SCENE.MEEHAN

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